

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-36 (canceled)

37. (currently amended): A recording apparatus comprising:

a suction unit for sucking a medium which has passed in a recording unit, said suction unit having a plurality of suction ports in a transporting direction of the medium; and

an opening and closing mechanism provided on a side of the suction unit for opening and closing a the sucking ports;

wherein when the medium is not transported on the suction unit, the suction ports are closed, and when the medium is transported on the suction unit, the suction ports are sequentially opened in accordance with transportation of a leading end of the medium, and

a sucking force provided by the suction ports to the medium is controllable in accordance with a property of the medium.

38. (previously presented): The recording apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the opening and closing mechanism includes a shutter made of a sheet material on provided on the sucking unit.

39. (previously presented): The recording apparatus according to claim 38, wherein the opening and closing mechanism includes a cam mechanism for driving the shutter.

40. (previously presented): The recording apparatus according to claim 38, wherein holes corresponding to the suction ports are formed on the shutter.

41. (previously presented): The recording apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the holes formed on the shutter are provided so as to be longer on an upstream side of the transportation of the medium than on a downstream side of the transportation of the medium.

42. (previously presented): The recording apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the sucking force is changed so as to become larger as the medium becomes thicker.

43. (previously presented): The recording apparatus according to claim 37, further comprising an operation unit to change the suction force that is operable for a user.

44. (previously presented): The recording apparatus according to claim 37, wherein the suction ports are constituted by at least two rows of the suction ports, the suction ports in each row are arranged substantially perpendicular to a transportation direction of the medium,

the holes formed on the shutter are constituted by at least two rows of the holes corresponding to the suction ports, and

the holes in a row provided on an upstream side of the transportation of the medium are formed longer than the holes in a row provided on a downstream side of the transportation of the medium.